

Coast Guard, DOT

§ 52.12

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AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 1552; 49 U.S.C. 108; Pub. L. 101-225, 103 Stat. 1908, 1914.

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Subpart A—Purpose and Authority

§ 52.1 Purpose.

This part establishes the procedure for application for correction of military records of the Coast Guard, for consideration of applications by the

Department of Transportation Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard (hereinafter “the Board”), and for settling claims or determining monetary benefits.

§ 52.2 Authority.

(a) The Secretary of Transportation, acting through boards of civilians, is authorized to correct any military record of the Coast Guard when the Secretary considers it necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. 10 U.S.C. 1552. Section 212 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1989 provides that the Secretary shall ensure that final action on a complete application for correction is taken within 10 months of its receipt.

(b) Corrections made under this authority are final and conclusive on all officers of the Government except when procured by fraud.

Subpart B—Establishment, Function, and Jurisdiction of Board

§ 52.11 Establishment and composition.

(a) Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1552 and 49 U.S.C. 108(a), the Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard is established in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) The Secretary appoints a panel of civilian officers or employees of the Department of Transportation to serve as members of the Board, and designates one such member to serve as Chairman of the Board. The Chairman designates members from this panel to serve as the Board for each case requiring consideration by a Board. The Board consists of three members, and two members present constitute a quorum of the Board.

(c) The Deputy Chairman of the Board exercises the functions prescribed by these regulations and such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairman.

§ 52.12 Function.

The function of the Board is to consider all applications properly before it, together with all pertinent military records to determine:

(a) Whether an error has been made in the applicant's Coast Guard military

record, whether the applicant has suffered an error or injustice as the result of an omission or commission in his or her record, or whether the applicant has suffered some manifest injustice in the treatment accorded him or her; and

(b) Whether the Board finds it necessary to change a military record to correct an error or remove an injustice.

§ 52.13 Jurisdiction.

(a) The Board has jurisdiction to review and determine all matters properly brought before it, consistent with existing law and such directives as may be issued by the Secretary.

(b) No application shall be considered by the Board until the applicant has exhausted all effective administrative remedies afforded under existing law or regulations, and such legal remedies as the Board may determine are practical, appropriate, and available to the applicant.

Subpart C—General Provisions Regarding Applications

§ 52.21 General requirements.

(a) An application for correction of a Coast Guard record shall be submitted on DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military or Naval Record) or an exact copy thereof, and shall be addressed to: Chairman, Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard (C-60), United States Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590. Forms and explanatory material may be obtained from the Chairman of the Board.

(b) The application shall be signed by the person alleging error or injustice in his or her military record, except that an application may be signed by a family member or legal representative with respect to the record of a deceased, incapacitated, or missing person.

(c) No application shall be processed until it is complete. An application for relief is complete when all of the following have been received by the Board:

(1) A signed DD Form 149, providing all necessary responses, including a specific allegation of error or injustice, accompanied by substantial proof in support of such allegation;

(2) The military records of the applicant; and

(3) Any applicable Department of Veterans Affairs medical records.

§ 52.22 Time limit for filing application.

An application for correction of a record must be filed within three years after the applicant discovered or reasonably should have discovered the alleged error or injustice. If an application is untimely, the applicant shall set forth reasons in the application why its acceptance is in the interest of justice. An untimely application shall be denied unless the Board finds that sufficient evidence has been presented to warrant a finding that it would be in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to file timely.

§ 52.23 Counsel.

As used in this part, the term “counsel” includes attorneys who are members in good standing of any bar; accredited representatives of veterans’ organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 3402; and other persons who, in the opinion of the Board, are competent to represent the applicant for correction. Whenever the term “applicant” is used in these rules, except in § 52.21, the term shall mean an applicant or his or her counsel.

§ 52.24 Evidence.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to procure such evidence, including official records, as the applicant desires to present in support of his case.

§ 52.25 Access to official records.

The applicant shall have access to official records or to any information pertaining to the applicant which is in the custody of the Coast Guard, as provided in 49 CFR part 10. The applicant shall also have access to other Coast Guard records as provided in 49 CFR part 7.

§ 52.26 Withdrawal.

The board may, in its discretion, permit the applicant to withdraw his or her application at any time before a final determination by the Secretary.